

Message Text

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11
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 EB-07 SAJ-01 /076 W
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R 270821Z JUL 76
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7995
INFO AMECONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
USLO PEKING

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, RP, PG
SUBJECT: FILIPINO OILMAN PROPOSES "NORTH SEA" STYLE PARTITION
OF SOUTH CHINA SEA AREA

1. ACCORDING JULY 26 "BULLETIN TODAY" JOSE DE VENECIA JR. HAS PROPOSED "NORTH SEA-TYPE FORMULA" (I.E. PARTITION) FOR DISPUTED SOUTH CHINA SEA ISLANDS AREA. DE VENECIA, WHO IS FORMER LIBERAL PARTY CONGRESSMAN AND CURRENTLY PRESIDENT OF PETROLEUM ASSOCIATION OF PHILIPPINES, SUGGESTED DRAWING OF "MEDIAN LINE" BETWEEN PHILIPPINES AND MAINLAND, WITH BLOCKS ON EITHER SIDE ALLOCATED TO COUNTRIES INVOLVED. ACCORDING BULLETIN ACCOUNT "PHILIPPINES WOULD NOT CLAIM PARACELS WHILE SPRATLYS, EAST OF THE LINE, WOULD COME UNDER PHILIPPINE JURISDICTION." ALTHOUGH DETAILS NOT SPELLED OUT, DE VENECIA SAID REED BANK WOULD BE "DEFINITELY" UNDER PHILIPPINE OWNERSHIP SINCE IT LIES ONLY 170 MILES WEST OF PALAWAN, IN
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ACCORDANCE WITH "AGREEMENT ON CONTINENTAL SHELVES

AND THE 200 MILES ECONOMIC ZONE CONSENSUS."

2. COMMENT. WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE TO SUGGEST THAT DE VENECIA'S STATEMENT HAS OFFICIAL BACKING, EVEN AS TRIAL BALLOON, ALTHOUGH WORTH NOTING THAT KIND OF PARTITION HE IS SUGGESTING WOULD APPARENTLY GIVE THE GOP ALL THAT IT CLAIMS IN DISPUTED REGION. DE VENECIA DOES HAVE PALACE CONNECTIONS. HIS OWN FIRM (LANDOIL/BASIC) HAS AN INTEREST IN "WHITE EAGLE" CONCESSION OF TIZARD BANK, WHICH IS WITHIN THE "FREEDOMLAND" AREA CLAIMED BY GOP. ITEM HAS RECEIVED LITTLE ADDITIONAL PRESS ATTENTION LOCALLY. SULLIVAN

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